

which should be a public-private hybrid resembling the Federal Reserve System. It should be independently responsible for managing its budget and establishing administrative policy, but should report to a congressional oversight committee and to the public. It is essential that the plan be sufficiently independent of congressional and administration management to be protected from political manipulation and annual budgetary struggles. . . .

. . . Our present medical care system lacks the structure and incentives to improve the quality of care. A not-for-profit system of salaried physicians, who work together in groups that have no financial incentive to do more or less than is medically appropriate, who compete with other medical groups only on the basis of quality and their attractiveness to patients, and whose results are publicly accountable, could be expected to deliver the kind of health care we need. The quality of care would also be improved by a system of competing not-for-profit facilities that are held to national standards. . . .

As for access and equity, the plan outlined here would guarantee universal coverage for all essential services and would allow employers and individuals to share in the costs through an earmarked and graduated tax. The government would be expected to pay the costs of today's uninsured, as well as the contributions it now makes to government insurance programs. Given the large savings expected in this system, the change in net costs to government should be minimal. . . .

. . . A real solution to our crisis will not be found until the public, the medical profession, and the government reject the prevailing delusion that health care is best left to market forces. Kenneth Arrow had it right in 1963 when he said that we need to depend on "non-market" mechanisms to make our health care system work properly. Once it is acknowledged that the market is inherently unable to deliver the kind of health care system we need, we can begin to develop the "nonmarket" arrangements for the system we want. This time the medical profession and the public it is supposed to serve will have to be involved in the effort. It will be difficult, but it will not be impossible.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues attention an anti-secession bill that is currently under consideration in The People's Republic of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee. Although the language of the draft of this law has not been made public, many Taiwanese are troubled. They are concerned that if such legislation is passed it may lead to future military action against them if Taipei does not succumb to Beijing's One China principle. This proposal should concern the United States because of our commitment to help preserve a democratic Taiwan.

However, Beijing should be commended for its recent conciliatory gestures that appear aimed at lowering tensions across the Taiwan Strait. These include the first non-stop, cross-strait charter flights between the mainland and Taiwan for the February Lunar New Year holiday and the dispatch of two senior Chinese officials to the funeral of Koo Chen-fu who headed Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation. Yet

the impending law could prove counterproductive to these actions in several ways.

The proposed law could result in China taking military action against Taiwan if it appears to Beijing that Taiwan is moving toward independence. Most Taiwanese would like to peacefully co-exist with the mainland, if creative ways to do so can be negotiated between Beijing and Taipei.

The status of hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese living in China could also become uncertain as a result of this legislation. Some have questioned whether this means that statements interpreted as supporting Taiwan could be the legal basis for charges of treason or other criminal actions—a scenario causing deep concern in the Taiwanese business community on the mainland.

Furthermore, the law has received a negative reaction from the citizens of Taiwan and could lead to increasing support for the very independence moves it seeks to deter. This legislation will not encourage negotiations that are needed to attain a peaceful resolution to tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

President Bush clearly stated that the basic tenets of his foreign policy will be the expansion of democracy and freedom across the globe. It is my hope that the Bush Administration will encourage China not to pass the proposed antiseccession law.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR. CLIFF MCKARNS ON HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. NEY Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Cliff McKarns was born on February 19, 1920, and is celebrating his 85th birthday; and

Whereas, Cliff McKarns, a World War II Veteran who is to be commended for his great service to our nation; and

Whereas, Cliff McKarns is a retired farmer and employee of Summitville Tile in Summitville, Ohio; and

Whereas, Cliff McKarns is loved and appreciated by all his family members.

Therefore, I join with the family of Mr. Cliff McKarns and the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in wishing Mr. Cliff McKarns a very happy 85th birthday.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PAUL ELIZONDO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bexar County Commissioner Paul Elizondo for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Paul Elizondo began public life as a music teacher in the Edgewood and San Antonio public school districts. He was a member of a wide variety of professional organizations, including the National Education Association,

the Texas Classroom Teachers Association, and the Music Educators National Conference.

He was first elected to the State House of Representatives in 1978, and served for four years, working on the Public Education, State Affairs, and Constitutional Amendments committees. In 1983, he made the transition to county service. He was elected Commissioner for Precinct 2, and has been serving San Antonio as a Bexar County Commissioner for over 20 years.

He has been involved in a wide variety of community organizations, including the Center for Health Care Services, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Private Industry Council, and the National Council of Community Mental Health centers. An energetic public servant, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and a beloved teacher he is an inspiration to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Bexar County Commissioner Paul Elizondo is a credit to his community and a tremendous resource to his county.

H. RES. 16, NATIONAL MANUFACTURING WEEK

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak favorably on House Resolution 16, supporting the goals of National Manufacturing Week, congratulating manufacturers and their employees for their contributions to growth and innovation, and recognizing the challenges facing the manufacturing sector.

The American manufacturing industry has been a key to our economic success in the past, and will continue to be a key to our economic success in the future. As a member of the Congressional Manufacturing Task Force, I have focused on how the federal government can most effectively help small and medium sized manufacturers compete and grow in western Wisconsin and throughout the country. Through good investments and smart practices, the federal government can better assist American companies and help our nation keep its economic edge.

We need to invest in proven programs that help small and medium sized businesses, such as the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). The MEP provides our manufacturers with the tools to compete in a competitive marketplace. It increases our country's manufacturing productivity and competitiveness, resulting in expanded economic activity and an enhanced tax base. It aids in the creation and retention of well-paying manufacturing jobs for American workers, and it is vital to our nation's small manufacturers. That is why I have supported level funding of \$109 million for the MEP in FY 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support House Resolution 16, supporting the goals of National Manufacturing Week, and I congratulate American manufacturers for their contributions to our economic success.